

Amendment and Response to Office Action
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- B1**
15. A method for determining propensity for longevity in a patient, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S1564 and D4S1572 on human chromosome 4;
 - (b) comparing said segment with DNA corresponding to said segment obtained from an individual who is at least 98 years of age; and
 - (c) determining propensity for longevity of said patient based upon an identity between said segment obtained from said patient and said segment obtained from said individual who is at least 98 years of age.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining a DNA sample from a patient.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining a DNA sample from an individual who is at least 98 years of age.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S1564 and D4S411 on human chromosome 4.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S411 and D4S1572 on human chromosome 4.
20. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region of 108.0 to 112.6 cM on human chromosome 4.

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21. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region of 108.0 to 109.0 cM on human chromosome 4.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region of 109.0 to 112.6 cM on human chromosome 4.

BASIS FOR AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-14 are canceled without prejudice and without any intention to abandon the subject matter claimed therein, but with the intention that claims of the same, greater, or lesser scope may be pursued in a continuing application.

Support for new claims 15-22 is found in the specification as filed (see, for example, paragraphs 10, 38, 40-48, Table 1 and Figure 4). Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the present amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, claims 1-4 and 7-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-14 (without prejudice) to obviate the rejections in the Office Action. New claims 15-22 have been added by the present amendment (see Exhibit A for a clean copy of the pending claims). Applicants submit that claims 15-22 are in condition for allowance in the present application, and such action is hereby requested.

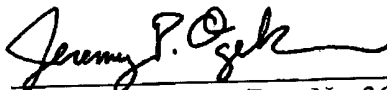
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CONCLUSION

If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

A petition for a three-month extension of time is enclosed herewith. Applicants claim small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27, therefore the resulting fee for the three-month extension of time is \$460.00. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0531. Furthermore, if any additional fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Respectfully submitted,



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